

## SYMMETRIC THETA DIVISORS OF KLEIN SURFACES

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ABSTRACT. This is a slightly expanded version of the talk given by Ch.O. at the conference “*Instantons in complex geometry*”, at the Steklov Institute in Moscow. The purpose of this talk was to explain the algebraic results of our paper “*Abelian Yang-Mills theory on Real tori and Theta divisors of Klein surfaces*” [10].

In this paper we compute determinant index bundles of certain families of Real Dirac type operators on Klein surfaces as elements in the corresponding Grothendieck group [7] of Real line bundles in the sense of Atiyah. On a Klein surface these determinant index bundles have a natural holomorphic description as theta line bundles. In particular we compute the first Stiefel-Whitney classes of the corresponding fixed point bundles on the real part of the Picard torus. The computation of these classes is important, because they control to a large extent the orientability of certain moduli spaces in Real gauge theory and Real algebraic geometry [11].

Let  $C$  be a Riemann surface, and  $g := h^0(\omega_C)$  its genus. The *geometric theta divisor* of  $C$  is the effective divisor of  $\text{Pic}^{g-1}(C)$  defined by

$$\Theta := \{[\mathcal{L}] \in \text{Pic}^{g-1}(C) \mid h^0(\mathcal{L}) > 0\}.$$

The set  $\theta$  of *theta characteristics* of  $C$  is the set of square roots of  $[\omega_C]$ , i.e.

$$\theta := \{[\kappa] \in \text{Pic}^{g-1}(C) \mid \kappa^{\otimes 2} \simeq \omega_C\} \subset \text{Pic}^{g-1}(C).$$

Note that  $\#\theta = 2^{2g}$ . For a theta characteristic  $[\kappa] \in \theta$  we obtain an associated *symmetric theta divisor*

$$\Theta_{[\kappa]} := \Theta - [\kappa] \subset \text{Pic}^0(C)$$

and a holomorphic line bundle  $\mathcal{L}_{[\kappa]} := \mathcal{O}_{\text{Pic}^0(C)}(\Theta_{[\kappa]})$  on the Abelian variety  $\text{Pic}^0(C)$ .

**Definition 1.** A *Klein surface* is a pair  $(C, \iota)$ , where  $C$  is a Riemann surface and  $\iota : C \rightarrow C$  an anti-holomorphic involution.

The fixed point locus  $C^\iota$  decomposes in a finite union  $\coprod_{i=1}^n C_i$  of  $n := \#\pi_0(C^\iota)$  circles  $C_i$ . The topological type of the Klein surface  $(C, \iota)$  is the triple  $(g, n, a)$ , where

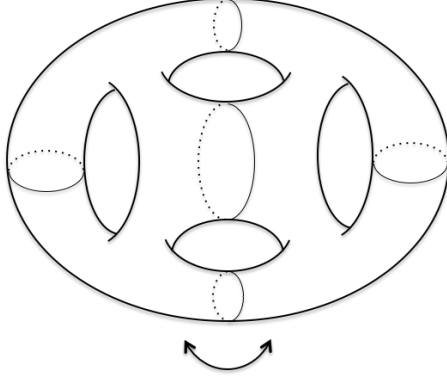
$$a := \begin{cases} 0 & \text{when } C/\langle \iota \rangle \text{ is orientable} \\ 1 & \text{when } C/\langle \iota \rangle \text{ is non-orientable.} \end{cases}$$

These invariants are subject to the following conditions [6]:

- (1)  $1 \leq n \leq g + 1$ ,  $g + 1 - n \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ , when  $a = 0$ ,
- (2)  $0 \leq n \leq g$ , when  $a = 0$ .

**Examples:**

- (1)  $g = 0$ , so  $C = \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^1$ .
  - (a)  $a = 0$ :  $\iota[z_0, z_1] = [\bar{z}_0, \bar{z}_1]$ ; in this case one has  $C^\iota = \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{R}}^1$ , and  $C/\langle\iota\rangle \simeq D^2$ ,
  - (b)  $a = 1$ :  $\iota[z_0, z_1] = [-\bar{z}_1, \bar{z}_0]$ ; in this case one has  $C^\iota = \emptyset$ ,  $C/\langle\iota\rangle \simeq \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{R}}^2$
- (2)  $g = 1$ , so  $C$  is an elliptic curve, say  $C = \mathbb{C}/\langle 1, \tau \rangle$  with  $\tau \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$ .
  - (a)  $a = 0$ : take  $\tau = it$  with  $t \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ ,  $\iota[z] = [\bar{z}]$ ; in this case  $C^\iota = C_1 \amalg C_2$ , and  $C/\langle\iota\rangle$  is an annulus.
  - (b)  $a = 1$ : take  $\tau = it$  with  $t \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ ,  $\iota([z]) = [\frac{1}{2} + \bar{z}]$ ; in this case  $C^\iota = \emptyset$ , and  $C/\langle\iota\rangle$  is a Klein bottle.
  - (c)  $a = 1$ : take  $\tau = \frac{1}{2} + it$  with  $t \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ ,  $\iota([z]) = [\bar{z}]$ ; in this case  $C^\iota = C_1$ , and  $C/\langle\iota\rangle$  is a Möbius band.
- (3) The picture below represents a Klein surface with topological type  $(4, 3, 0)$



**Remark 2.** Let  $X$  be a compact, connected complex manifold and  $\tau : X \rightarrow X$  an anti-holomorphic involution. Then  $\tau$  induces an anti-holomorphic involution

$$\hat{\tau} : \text{Pic}(X) \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X)$$

defined by  $\hat{\tau}([\mathcal{L}]) := [\tau^*(\bar{\mathcal{L}})]$ .

Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a compact, connected complex manifold endowed with an anti-holomorphic involution such that  $X^\tau \neq \emptyset$ . We define a morphism  $w : \text{Pic}(X)^{\hat{\tau}} \rightarrow H^1(X^\tau, \mathbb{Z}_2)$  in the following way: for a holomorphic line bundle  $\mathcal{L}$  with  $\tau^*(\bar{\mathcal{L}}) \simeq \mathcal{L}$  there exists an involutive, anti-holomorphic lift  $\tilde{\tau}_{\mathcal{L}} : \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$  of  $\tau$ , which is unique up to multiplication by constants  $\zeta \in S^1$ . The fixed point locus  $\mathcal{L}^{\tilde{\tau}_{\mathcal{L}}}$  can be regarded as a real line bundle over  $X^\tau$ , and we put

$$w([\mathcal{L}]) := w_1(\mathcal{L}^{\tilde{\tau}_{\mathcal{L}}}) .$$

We are interested in the following

**Problem:** For a Klein surface  $(C, \iota)$  with  $C^\iota \neq \emptyset$ , let  $[\kappa] \in \theta$  such that  $i[\kappa] = [\kappa]$ , and let  $\mathcal{L}_{[\kappa]}$  be the associated holomorphic line bundle on  $\text{Pic}^0(C)$ . Compute

$$w(\mathcal{L}_{[\kappa]}) \in H^1(\text{Pic}^0(C)^i, \mathbb{Z}_2) .$$

Our problem is motivated by Real gauge theory, namely by Real Gromov-Witten and Real Seiberg-Witten theory. The point is that  $\mathcal{L}_{[\kappa]}$  can be regarded as the determinant line bundle associated with a family of order 0 perturbations of the Dirac operator associated with the Spin structure on  $C$  defined by  $[\kappa]$ . This family of perturbations is parameterized by  $\text{Pic}^0(C)$ . Using this interpretation, one sees that  $w(\mathcal{L}_{[\kappa]})$  controls the orientability of different components of Real moduli spaces of generalized vortices.

**Remark 3.** *The Chern class  $c_1(\mathcal{L}_{[\kappa]})$  can be computed using the Grothendieck-Riemann-Roch theorem applied to the projection  $\text{Pic}^0(C) \times C \rightarrow \text{Pic}^0(C)$  and the interpretation of  $\mathcal{O}_{\text{Pic}^{g-1}(C)}(\Theta)$  as the determinant line bundle of the total direct image of a Poincaré line bundle on  $\text{Pic}^{g-1}(C) \times C$ .*

In order to solve our problem we shall use the following strategy: we show that  $w(\mathcal{L}_{[\kappa]})$  can be read from the Appell-Humbert data of  $\mathcal{L}_{[\kappa]}$  regarded as holomorphic line bundle on the torus  $H^1(C, \mathcal{O}_C)/H^1(X, \mathbb{Z})$ . Therefore, our strategy has two steps:

- I) Determine explicitly the Appell-Humbert data of  $\mathcal{L}_{[\kappa]}$ ,
- II) Extract the Stiefel-Whitney class  $w(\mathcal{L}_{[\kappa]})$  from these data.

The general set-up is the following:  $V$  is a finite dimensional complex vector space,  $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{C}$  a maximal lattice, and  $\tau : V \rightarrow V$  an anti-linear involution such that  $\tau(\Lambda) \subset \Lambda$ . The holomorphic torus  $T := V/\Lambda$  comes with an induced involution which will be denoted by the same symbol  $\tau$ .

**Definition 4.** *An Appel-Humbert datum for the pair  $(V, \Lambda)$  is a pair  $(H, \alpha)$ , where  $H : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is a Hermitian form on  $V$  such that  $(\text{im} H)(\Lambda \times \Lambda) \subset \mathbb{Z}$ , and  $\alpha : \Lambda \rightarrow S^1$  is an  $\text{im} H$ -semi-character, i.e. it satisfies the identity*

$$\alpha(\lambda + \lambda') = \alpha(\lambda)\alpha(\lambda')e^{\pi i \text{im} H(\lambda, \lambda')} .$$

We denote by  $\text{Hom}_{\text{im} H}(\Lambda, S^1)$  the set of  $\text{im} H$ -semi-characters on  $\Lambda$ . An Appel-Humbert datum  $(H, \alpha)$  defines a canonical factor of automorphy

$$a(H, \alpha) : \Lambda \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$$

defined by

$$a(H, \alpha)(\lambda, v) := \alpha(\lambda)e^{\pi[H(\lambda, v) + \frac{1}{2}H(\lambda, \lambda)]} .$$

Let  $\mathcal{L}(H, \alpha)$  be the holomorphic line bundle  $\mathcal{L}(H, \alpha) := V \times \mathbb{C} / \sim_{a(H, \alpha)}$ , where  $\sim_{a(H, \alpha)}$  is the equivalence relation on the product  $V \times \mathbb{C}$  defined by the factor of automorphy  $a(H, \alpha)$ .

**Theorem 5.** *(Appel-Humbert) The assignment  $(H, \alpha) \mapsto \mathcal{L}(H, \alpha)$  induces an isomorphism*

$$AH : \coprod_{\substack{H \text{ Hermitian form on } V \\ (\text{im} H)(\Lambda \times \Lambda) \subset \mathbb{Z}}} \text{Hom}_{\text{im} H}(\Lambda, S^1) \rightarrow \text{Pic}(T) .$$

We give a new proof of this statement which will allow us to give an important, new geometric interpretation of the Appel-Humbert datum corresponding to a given holomorphic line bundle. This new proof is based on two ideas:

- 1) Prove a general result about the holonomy of Yang-Mills connections on line bundles,
- 2) Use the Kobayashi-Hitchin correspondence to recover the Appel-Humbert theorem.

1) Let  $u \in \text{Alt}^2(\Lambda, \mathbb{Z}) = H^2(T, \mathbb{Z})$  and  $L_u$  be a Hermitian line bundle on  $T$  with  $c_1(L_u) = u$ . The linear extension  $u_{\mathbb{R}} : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of  $u$  can also be regarded as a differentiable 2-form on  $T$ , which is harmonic with respect to the flat metric induced by an inner product on  $V$ . The moduli space of Yang-Mills connections on  $L_u$  is

$$\mathcal{M}(L_u) := \left\{ [A] \in \mathcal{A}(L_u) / \mathcal{G} \mid \frac{i}{2\pi} F_A = u_{\mathbb{R}} \right\},$$

where  $\mathcal{A}(L_u)$  stands for space of unitary connections on  $L_u$ , and  $\mathcal{G} := \mathcal{C}^\infty(T, S^1)$  denotes the gauge group of the Hermitian line bundle  $L_u$ .

A unitary connection  $A \in \mathcal{A}(L_u)$  defines a map  $\alpha^A : \Lambda \rightarrow S^1$  given by the holonomy of  $A$  along the loops  $c_\lambda$  in  $T$  corresponding to the lattice elements  $\lambda \in \Lambda$ . More precisely

$$\alpha^A(\lambda) := h_{c_\lambda}^A \in S^1,$$

where  $c_\lambda : S^1 = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow T$  is defined by  $c_\lambda(t) := [t\lambda]$ .

**Theorem 6.** *The assignment  $A \mapsto \bar{\alpha}^A$  induces a homeomorphism*

$$h : \mathcal{M}(L_u) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_u(\Lambda, S^1).$$

2) Let  $u \in \text{Alt}^2(\Lambda, \mathbb{Z})$  such that the associated real form  $u_{\mathbb{R}}$  has type  $(1, 1)$ , i.e.  $J^*(u_{\mathbb{R}}) = u_{\mathbb{R}}$ . Denote by  $H_u$  the associated Hermitian form

$$H_u(v, w) := u_{\mathbb{R}}(v, Jw) + iu_{\mathbb{R}}(v, w).$$

We get a commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \coprod_{\substack{H \text{ Hermitian form on } V \\ (\text{im } H)(\Lambda \times \Lambda) \subset \mathbb{Z}}} \text{Hom}_{\text{im } H}(\Lambda, S^1) & = & \coprod_{\substack{u \in \text{Alt}^2(\Lambda, \mathbb{Z}) \\ J^*(u_{\mathbb{R}}) = u_{\mathbb{R}}}} \text{Hom}_{\text{im } H_u}(\Lambda, S^1) \\ \downarrow AH & & \downarrow h^{-1} \\ \text{Pic}(T) & \xleftarrow{KH} & \coprod_{u \in \text{NS}(T)} \mathcal{M}(L_u) \end{array}$$

Here  $KH$  denotes the Kobayashi-Hitchin correspondence between equivalence classes of Hermite-Einstein connections and isomorphism classes of (polystable) holomorphic vector bundles. Since any holomorphic line bundle is stable, the

polystability condition is empty in our situation. Recall that, in general, a unitary connection on a Hermitian vector bundle on a compact Kähler manifold is Hermite-Einstein if and only if it is Yang-Mills and its curvature has type (1,1).

**Remark 7.** *The commutative diagram above gives a geometric interpretation of the AH data  $(H, \alpha)$  of a holomorphic line bundle  $\mathcal{L}$ :  $(H, \alpha)$  corresponds to the curvature and the holonomy of the (essentially unique) Hermite-Einstein connection which is compatible with the holomorphic structure of  $\mathcal{L}$ .*

Now we come back to our problem: for a  $\hat{\tau}$ -invariant element  $[\mathcal{L}] \in \text{Pic}(T)^{\hat{\tau}}$  we want to determine  $w(\mathcal{L}) \in H^1(T^\tau, \mathbb{Z}_2)$ . Note that the fixed point locus  $T^\tau$  decomposes as a disjoint union

$$T^\tau = \coprod_{[\mu] \in \frac{1}{2}\Lambda^{-\tau} / \frac{1}{2}(1-\tau)\Lambda} \left( V^\tau / \Lambda^\tau + [\mu] \right),$$

so that  $w(\mathcal{L})$  can be regarded as a map

$$w(\mathcal{L}) : \frac{1}{2}\Lambda^{-\tau} / \frac{1}{2}(1-\tau)\Lambda \longrightarrow \text{Hom}(\Lambda^\tau, \mathbb{Z}_2).$$

Using this point of view one can prove:

**Theorem 8.** *Let  $(H, \alpha)$  be an AH datum, and put  $\mathcal{L} := \mathcal{L}(H, \alpha)$ . When  $[\mathcal{L}]$  is  $\hat{\tau}$ -invariant, one has:*

- (1)  $w(\mathcal{L})([\mu]) = w(\mathcal{L})([0]) + \overline{\text{im}H(2\mu, \cdot)}$  for every  $\mu \in \frac{1}{2}\Lambda^{-\tau}$ ,
- (2)  $w(\mathcal{L})([\mu])(\lambda + \tau\lambda) = \overline{\text{im}H(\lambda, \tau\lambda)}$  for every  $\lambda \in \Lambda$ ,
- (3)  $w(\mathcal{L})([0])(\lambda) = \bar{\alpha}(\lambda)$  for every  $\lambda \in \Lambda^\tau$ .

In this statement the bar on the right means congruence class (mod 2) in the first two formulae and conjugation in the third. This result completes step II) of our strategy, namely it allows us to extract the map  $w$  associated to a fixed point of  $\hat{\tau}$  from the corresponding Appel-Humbert datum. We now have to complete step I), namely to find the Appel-Humbert datum of the line bundles  $\mathcal{L}_{[\kappa]}$  associated with an  $\hat{\iota}$ -invariant theta characteristic  $[\kappa]$ .

Recall that, according to Mumford [1], a theta characteristic  $[\kappa] \in \theta$  has an associated theta form  $q_{[\kappa]} : \text{Pic}^0(C)_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2$  defined on the 2-torsion subgroup  $\text{Pic}^0(C)_2$  of  $\text{Pic}^0(C)$  and given by

$$q_{[\kappa]}([\eta]) := h^0(\kappa \otimes \eta) - h^0(\kappa) \pmod{2}.$$

Identifying  $\text{Pic}^0(C)_2 \simeq H_1(C, \mathbb{Z}_2)$  this form  $q_{[\kappa]}$  satisfies the *Riemann-Mumford* relations:

$$(1) \quad q_{[\kappa]}([\eta] + [\eta']) = q_{[\kappa]}([\eta]) + q_{[\kappa]}([\eta']) + [\eta] \cdot [\eta'].$$

**Theorem 9.** *Let  $[\kappa] \in \theta$ . Then  $\mathcal{L}_{[\kappa]} \simeq \mathcal{L}(H(\cdot, \cdot), \alpha_{[\kappa]})$ , where*

- i)  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : H^1(C, \mathbb{Z}) \times H^1(C, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  is the cup form,
- ii)  $\alpha_{[\kappa]}$  is defined by the formula  $\alpha_{[\kappa]}(\lambda) := (-1)^{q_{[\kappa]}(\overline{\lambda \cap [C]})}$ .

*Idea of proof:* Since  $c_1(\mathcal{L}_{[\kappa]}) = \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  it follows that the first component of the AH datum of  $\mathcal{L}_{[\kappa]}$  is  $H_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle}$  as claimed. On the other hand, using the fact that the divisor  $\Theta_{[\kappa]} \subset \text{Pic}^0(C)$  is symmetric (i.e.  $(-1)^*\Theta_{[\kappa]} = \Theta_{[\kappa]}$ ), one knows [3], that the second component of the AH datum is the  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ -semicharacter  $\alpha_{[\kappa]}$  given by

$$\alpha_{[\kappa]} = (-1)^{\text{mult}_{[\frac{1}{2}\lambda]}(\Theta_{[\kappa]}) - \text{mult}_{[0]}(\Theta_{[\kappa]})}.$$

Now we use Riemann's singularity theorem [3], which states

$$\text{mult}_{[\mathcal{L}]} \Theta = h^0(\mathcal{L}),$$

and the identification  $\frac{1}{2}H^1(C, \mathbb{Z})/H^1(C, \mathbb{Z}) \simeq H^1(C, \mathbb{Z}_2)$  given by

$$[\frac{1}{2}\lambda] \mapsto \overline{\lambda \cap [C]}.$$

**Corollary 10.** *Let  $[\kappa]$  be an  $\hat{\iota}$ -invariant theta characteristic. Then*

$$w(\mathcal{L}_{[\kappa]})([0])(\lambda) = (-1)^{q_{[\kappa]}(\overline{\lambda \cap [C]})} \quad \forall \lambda \in H^1(C, \mathbb{Z})^{-\iota^*}.$$

This result is not entirely satisfactory, because the right hand side is not topological. We need a third, a priori unexpected step, which will give an explicit, purely topological interpretation of the right hand term. First of all recall that

$$(2) \quad w(\mathcal{L}_{[\kappa]})([0])(\lambda - \iota^*(\lambda)) = \overline{\langle \lambda, -\iota^*\lambda \rangle} \quad \forall \lambda \in H^1(C, \mathbb{Z}).$$

Using results of [5] the following is easy to see:

**Lemma 11.** *Let  $C^\iota = \coprod_{i=1}^n C_i$  be the decomposition of the fixed point locus of  $\iota$  in connected components, choose orientations of these components, and denote by  $[C_1]^\vee$  the cohomology classes which correspond to  $[C_i]$  via Poincaré duality. Then*

$$\langle [C_1]^\vee, \dots, [C_n]^\vee \rangle_{\mathbb{Z}}, \quad (1 - \iota^*)H^1(C, \mathbb{Z})$$

*generate  $H^1(C, \mathbb{Z})^{-\iota^*}$ .*

Combining (2) and Lemma 11 we see that it suffices to compute

$$q_{[\kappa]}(\overline{[C_i]^\vee \cap [C]}) = q_{[\kappa]}([C_i]_2).$$

**Theorem 12.** *Let  $(C, \iota)$  be a Klein surface with  $C^\iota = \coprod_{i=1}^n C_i$ , where  $n > 0$ . Let  $[\kappa]$  be an  $\hat{\iota}$ -invariant theta characteristic. Then*

$$w_1(\mathcal{L}_{[\kappa]}^{\hat{\iota}}) \Big|_{\text{Pic}^0(C)_0^{\hat{\iota}}}([C_i]^\vee) = (-1)^{\langle w_1(\kappa^{\hat{\iota}\kappa}), [C_i]_2 \rangle + 1}.$$

Here we have denoted by  $\text{Pic}^0(C)_0^{\hat{\iota}}$  the connected component of the trivial line bundle  $[\mathcal{O}_C]$  in the fixed point locus  $\text{Pic}^0(C)^{\hat{\iota}}$ .

*Idea of proof:* We have to show that

$$q_{[\kappa]}([C_i]_2) = \langle w_1(\kappa^{\hat{\iota}\kappa}), [C_i]_2 \rangle + 1.$$

which gives a topological interpretation of Mumford's theta form. The proof of this formula uses delicate topological arguments combined with results of Johnson [8], Libgober [9], and Atiyah [2]. To explain their results, consider the diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \theta & \xrightarrow{\xi} & \text{Spin}(C) \\ q \searrow & & \swarrow \omega \\ & Q(H_1(C, \mathbb{Z}_2), \cdot) & \end{array}$$

Here  $Q(H_1(C, \mathbb{Z}_2), \cdot)$  denotes the set of maps  $q : \text{Pic}^0(C)_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2$  satisfying the Riemann-Mumford relations (1),  $\text{Spin}(C)$  is the set of equivalence classes of Spin-structures on  $C$ ,  $\xi$  is the correspondence between theta characteristics and  $\text{Spin}(C)$  defined by Atiyah, and  $\omega$  is a map defined by Johnson [8] in purely topological terms. The result follows from the fact that  $\xi$  is bijective [2],  $\omega$  is bijective [8], and  $\omega \circ \xi = q$  [9].

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